TALK OF THE TIDE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

THE CRIMSON TIDE BASEBALL TEAM TAKES ON THE CUBA NATIONAL TEAM!

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FROM THE DESK OF MAL MOORE

Certainly, the month of February is among the busiest of the year in intercollegiate athletics. Basketball, gymnastics, indoor track, and swimming are moving toward the heart of their competition while baseball, softball, golf and tennis get ready for their spring competition. Of course, there is football recruiting, which obviously generates interest year round.

It has also been rewarding to see many of our former players and coaches do so well in the NFL playoffs. The AFC Championship game between Baltimore and Pittsburgh featured a number of former Crimson Tide faces, including the Ravens' general manager Ozzie Newsome, who has over the years brought a number of Alabama players to the NFL, including this year's all-pro back Le'ron McClain and linebacker Jarret Johnson.

This year's Super Bowl featured a number of coaches and former Crimson Tide players. Pittsburgh's coaching staff includes John Mitchell, Bruce Arians and Amos Jones. DeShea Townsend has had a remarkable career for the Steelers and Anthony Madison and Fernando Bryant have been on the Pittsburgh roster as well.

Having coached in Arizona, it was nice to see the Cardinals do so well, especially with two of my old quarterbacks on the coaching staff, Jeff Rutledge and Freddie Kitchens. Tim Castille has become an integral part of the Cardinals' offense this year, and I know his dad Jeremiah couldn't be prouder.

Having so many Alabama men do so well only helps to add to the tradition and legacy of our athletic heritage. There has also been some sad news with the loss of four of our A-Club members who have been so supportive of the program over the years.

Danny Ridgeway and Steve Allen passed away in December, while David Sadler and Pete Pierson lost their battles with illnesses in January. Danny came to us as a stellar quarterback prospect from Fyffe, Ala., in the early 1970s. A serious knee injury curtailed his career as a back but he became our primary placekicker in 1975 and helped us win the Sugar Bowl over Penn State with two field goals and an extra point.

Steve was a teammate of mine back in the early 1960s, and he served as the team's captain for the 1963 Sugar Bowl team. He had been battling Lou Gehrig's disease the last few years but he had maintained a great attitude and had visited via the phone with Coach Saban a few days before his death.

David Sadler was an undersized offensive lineman for us and had a great senior year in 1977, helping us beat Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl in his final game. A native of Cadiz, Ky., David suffered a stroke in mid-January and sadly didn't make it.

Pete Pierson was a manager for the football, basketball and baseball teams at the University back in the 1950's and became a prominent coach at Tuscaloosa High. There have been few gentlemen who followed the Crimson Tide like Pete. He was a regular at just about every sporting event held on campus, and his family has generously set up a scholarship for an Alabama manager in his name. If any of you would like to contribute to help endow this scholarship, you can contact Ronny Robertson in our development office at 205-348-9018 or rrobertson@ia.ua.edu.

Always know how much I appreciate each of you and your support for our athletic programs; and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events this month and into this spring.

Kindest Regards,

NEWS

FROM THE MAL M. MOORE ATHLETIC COMPLEX

DEPARTMENT

COMPLIANCE HANGS A MESSAGE

During the past year, Alabama has implemented new initiatives in its compliance department. Most of these initiatives aren't visible to UA fans, but at least one is. Eight signs are being installed throughout Alabama's athletic venues that try to help fans answer the question, "What is an Extra Benefit?"

The signs' eye-catching graphics are designed to highlight numerous examples of actions the NCAA classifies as extra benefits, the official term for an impermissible gift to a student-athlete or prospect. "The list, while certainly not exhaustive, provides examples of scenarios with which boosters, fans and alumni may be faced in the community," said Associate Athletic Director for Compliance Mike Ward.

While many of the items listed are obvious, such as cash, loans or free housing, others are often overlooked. "A meal at a restaurant or tailgate, holiday cards, or discounts of any type could all result in penalties for our programs. We want people to get to know our student-athletes, but we also want people to know that NCAA rules outweigh nearly all of those relationships," stated Ward.

The signs are part of several new initiatives this year, including compliance quizzes in football game programs, a revamped website and mass emails to supporters. "The message is easy," stated Ward. "Ask Before You Act. That is the best way to help the University." The signs will be changed periodically to highlight new rules and they can be seen at Bryant-Denny Stadium, Coleman Coliseum, Sewell-Thomas Stadium and the Softball Stadium.

FOOTBALL

BAUMHOWER INDUCTED INTO DOLPHINS RING OF HONOR

Former Alabama All-American and All-Pro defensive lineman Bob Baumhower became the 18th member of the Miami Dolphins Ring of Honor on December 14, during halftime ceremonies of the Dolphins' game against the San Francisco 49ers at Dolphins Stadium. Baumhower was a two-time All-SEC tackle at Alabama, was twice named to All-American teams, and is a member of Alabama's All-Decade Team of the 1970s. Baumhower was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

FOOTBALL

FOOTBALL CONCLUDES SEASON WITH HIGHEST RANKING SINCE 1994

Alabama's 12-win season in football marked only the fourth time that a Crimson Tide team had won a dozen or more games in a year, with the '79 team going 12-0 and the '92 squad posting a 13-0 mark. Gene Stallings' 1994 team finished 12-1.

Noteworthy is the 2008 team's only two losses were the No. 1 and No. 2 teams in the country, Florida and Utah.

The only other time that a team's only losses were to the 1-2 teams was Colorado back in 1971 when the Buffs finished 10-2 with the losses coming to Nebraska and Oklahoma. Alabama's sixth place finish in the final polls marked the Crimson Tide's highest finish since the fifth place finish in 1994.

MEN'S GOLF

FORMER TIDE GOLFER JOSEPH SYKORA QUALIFIES FOR 2009 NATIONWIDE TOUR

Former Alabama golfer Joseph Sykora qualified for fully exempt status on the 2009 Nationwide Tour following the completion of the PGA Qualifying Tournament.

Sykora battled through the challenging PGA Q-School, which consists of three phases of qualifying before the final stage that has six rounds split between the PGA West Nicklaus Tournament Course and the PGA West TPC Stadium Course. He finished the final stage of qualifying tied for 70th place with an 11-under 421 after 108 holes of golf.

Sykora was a three-time ESPN The Magazine Academic All-American at Alabama. The Daphne, Alabama native finished second at the 2008 SEC Championships and won two individual collegiate championships during his Alabama career. A perfect 4.0 student, he has a bachelor's and master's degree in accounting. He made SEC history in April of this year as a three-time SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year in the sport of men's golf. He also won the H. Boyd McWhorter Award as the top student-athlete in any sport in the SEC in 2008 as well as the University of Alabama's Bryant Award signifying the school's top student-athlete.

VOLLEYBALL

VOLLEYBALL NAMES PAVLINA STEFFKOVA ASSISTANT COACH

Volleyball's latest coaching addition by head coach Judy Green welcomed Pavlina Steffkova as the Crimson Tide's new assistant coach. Most recently, Steffkova served as Birmingham-Southern College's head volleyball coach.

Steffkova spent a total of six years at Birmingham-Southern, two as head coach and four as an assistant. She helped guide the Panthers to an overall record of 59-11 while at the helm. As an assistant coach with Birmingham-Southern, Steffkova helped steer the Panthers to three straight appearances in the Big South Conference Tournament semifinals.

Before joining the Birmingham-Southern staff, Steffkova served as an assistant coach at the University of Arkansas. As a member of the Razorbacks' crew from 2000-2002, she helped lead Arkansas to two NCAA tournament appearances while compiling a record of 64-32. In her final year in Fayetteville, the Razorbacks went 27-6 and were ranked among the top teams in the country. Steffkova began her coaching career as a graduate assistant coach at the University of Tennessee at Martin from 1999-2000.

Steffkova was a two-year letterwinner at the University of Texas where she received Big 12 All-Academic Honor Roll distinction. She spent her first two years of college at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Mo. where she was an NJCAA All-American and member of the National Championship All-Tournament Team. Steffkova also earned AVCA Junior College All-America honors and NJCAA Academic All-America recognition. In 2007, she was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame for her illustrious career at Jefferson.

At a December 15 dedication ceremony at Bryant-Denny Stadium, his question was finally answered. Made possible by Fail's generous gift to the Crimson Tide Foundation, the visitors' locker room was officially named "The Fail Room."

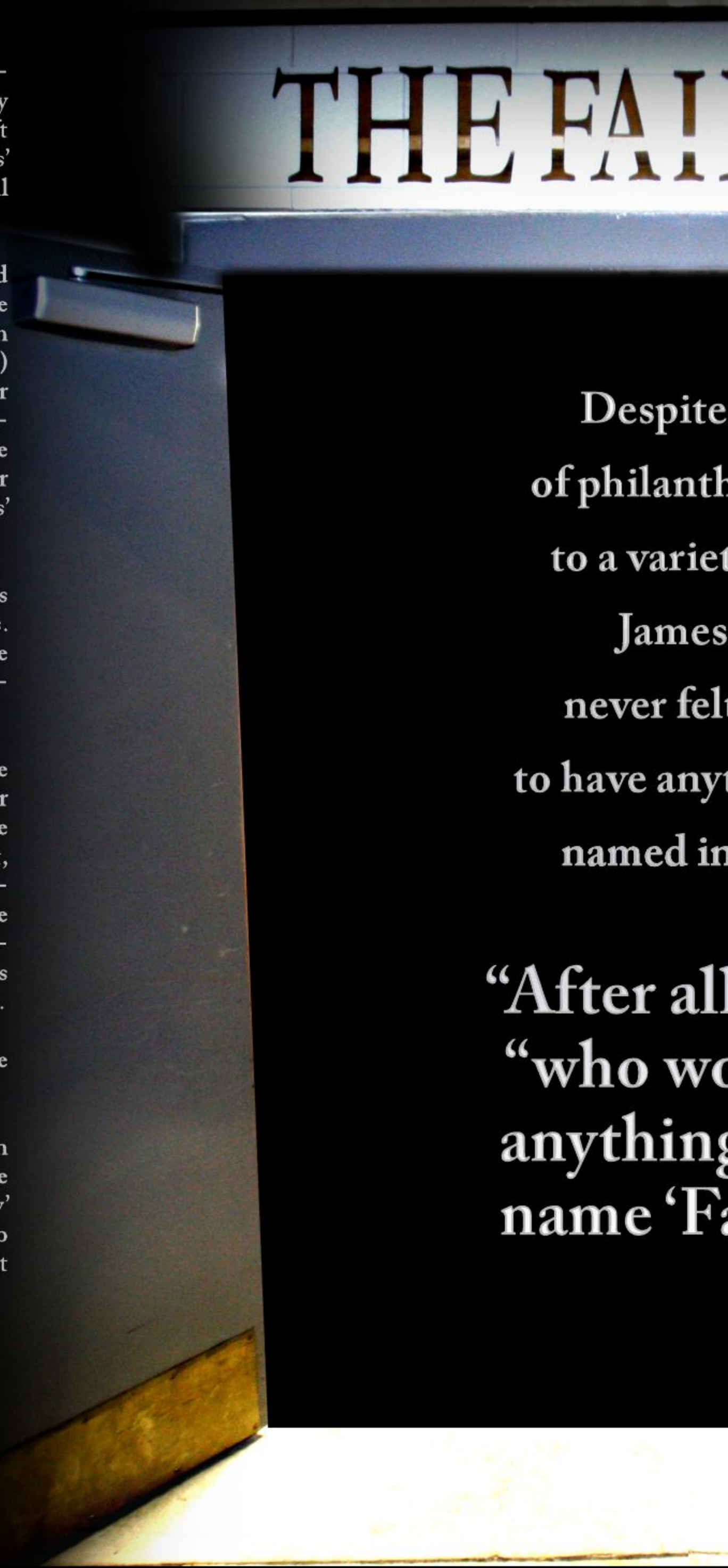
More than 40 friends, family members, and Athletic and University officials gathered for the occasion held in the locker room below the south end zone stands. For 18 seasons (1988-2005) this space was the Crimson Tide's home locker room, until 2006 when new team accommodations were built as part of the north end zone stadium expansion. Alabama's old home locker room in the south end then became the visitors' locker room.

"This naming opportunity came at Mr. Fail's request," said Mal Moore, Director of Athletics. "He had always been hesitant to use his unique name for a naming right until the right opportunity came along."

Fail, a native of Mobile, graduated from The University of Alabama in 1949 after a three-year stint in the U.S. Navy. Following graduation, he began his long, storied career in the investment, mortgage, banking, savings and loan, and insurance fields. Mr. Fail continues to serve as the chairman of Stone Holdings, Inc. and Bluebonnet Savings Bank as well as various positions within the family of Stone Holdings companies.

Fail credits the University for his success in the business world.

"Anything I've done would not have been possible without the University of Alabama," he said, "but not so much from a 'making money' standpoint. At the University, I learned how to learn. I learned discipline and how to apply what I learned to the real world.



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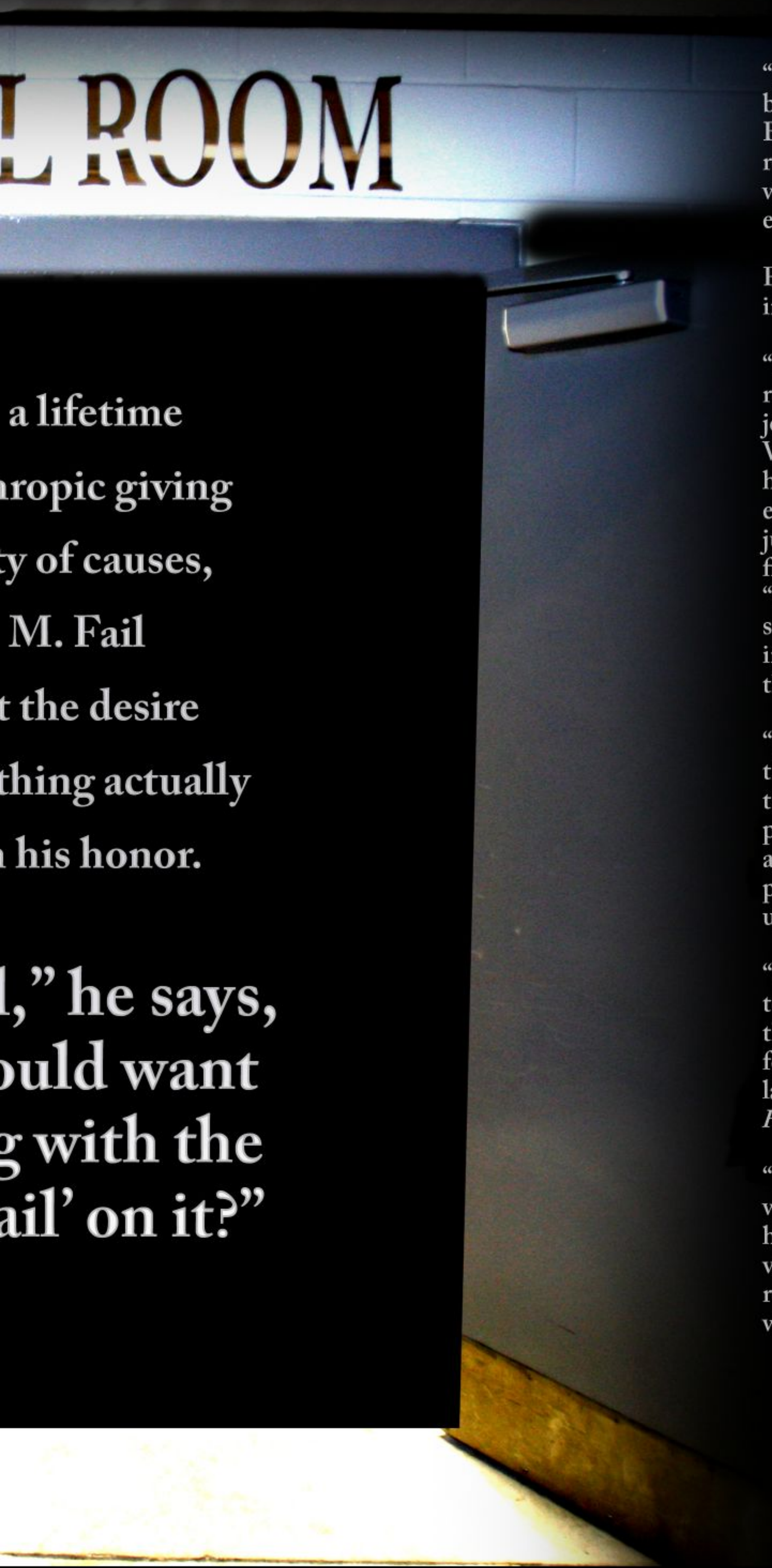

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"Now, many years later, I am honored to give back to the school that means so much to me. Earlier this year, when I saw the visitors' locker room as a potential naming right, I figured it was the most appropriate opportunity I would ever have to use my name."

Fail's loyalty and dedication has made a lasting impression on Moore.

"Over the years, we've developed a special relationship with Mr. Fail," he said. "What a joy he has been to work with and get to know. We've all been energized by being around him, his approach to life, his generosity, and his excitement for life. I didn't know Mr. Fail until just a few years ago when we went to make that first presentation to him," Moore continued. "I was so nervous, asking for a major gift from someone I didn't know. But when we walked in and I saw a big picture of Coach Bryant on the wall, I knew we had a chance.

"Facilities-wise, we didn't have anything at the time. All we had were dreams of what it would take to get the Crimson Tide back to national prominence. Also during that time, we were in a tough situation with the NCAA and we desperately needed our alumni and friends to step up and make a difference.

"Mr. Fail didn't wait to see what we were going to do. He made a significant gift to us right then, and at his request, the media suite in the football building was named in memory of his late father-in-law, former *Birmingham Post-Herald* sports editor Naylor Stone.

"Then a couple of years later, we began talking with him about another gift and that's when he came up with the idea about naming the visitors' locker room. Needless to say, his most recent gift – and the way he chose to use it – will be remembered for many years to come."

TIDEBITS

FOOTBALL

- For only the fourth time in school history, the University of Alabama had four football players earn first team All-American honors. Andre Smith (offensive tackle), Antoine Caldwell (center), Terrence Cody (nose tackle) and Rashad Johnson (safety) were all first team picks by various All-American squads this year.

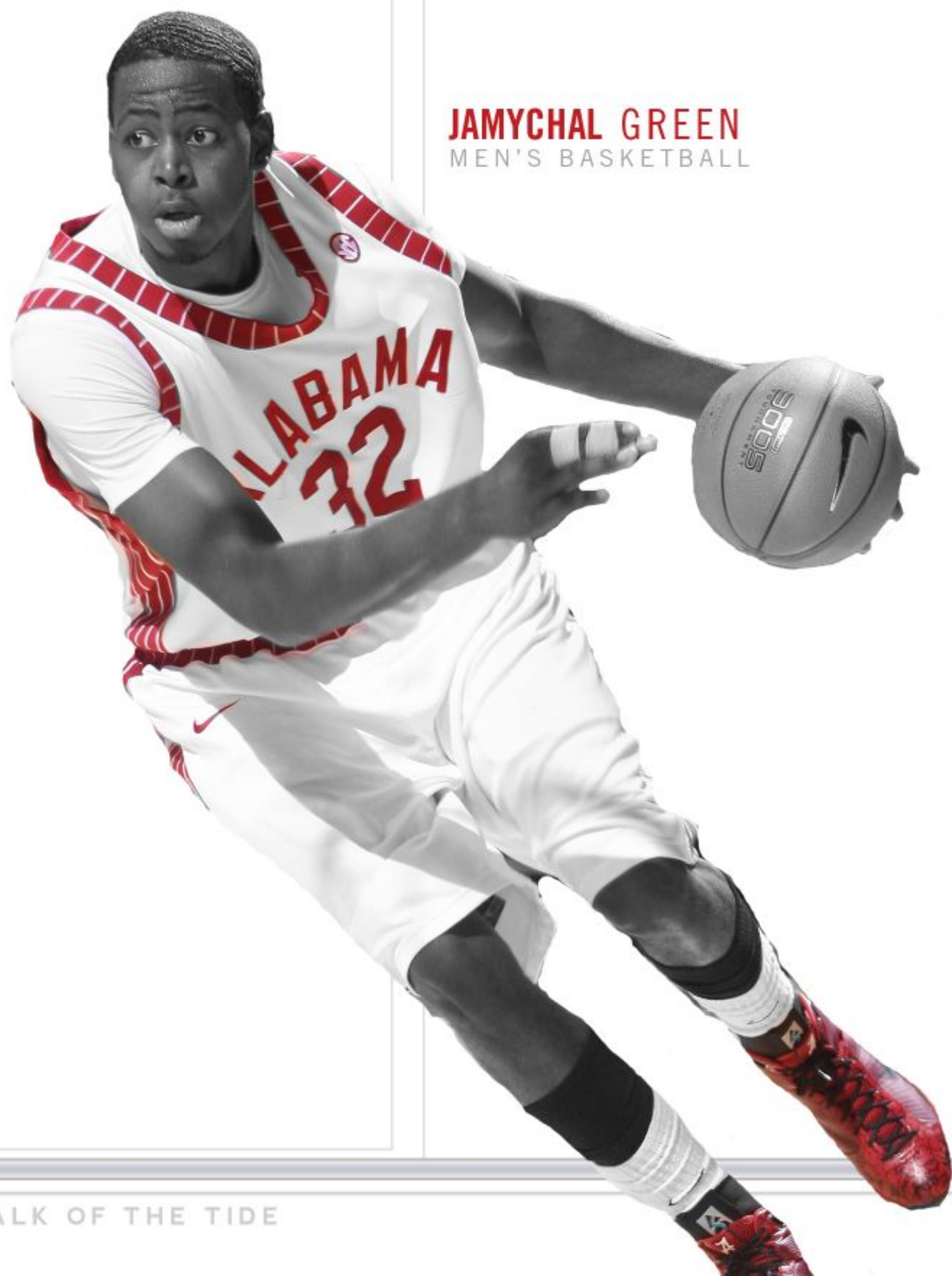
- In 1964 Wayne Freeman (guard), Dan Kearley (tackle), Joe Namath (quarterback) and David Ray (halfback-kicker) each earned at least one first team All-American selection. In 1966 Richard Cole (defensive tackle), Cecil Dowdy (offensive tackle), Ray Perkins (end) and Bobby Johns (safety) were all All-American selections. In 1974 Leroy Cook (defensive end), Sylvester Croom (center), Mike Washington (cornerback) and Woodrow Lowe (linebacker) were all first team choices by at least team.

GYMNASTICS

- Ashley Priess was named the Southeastern Conference Freshman Gymnast of the Week for the first two weeks of the season. After the Auburn and Kentucky meets, she is the SEC No. 1 ranked gymnast on the balance beam and the league's top-ranked freshman on the uneven bars.

ROWING

- The Alabama Rowing team was featured in the December issue of Tuscaloosa Magazine in a piece that follows the team through the fall and to the Head of the Charles Regatta in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The story is available online at: http://www.tuscaloosanews.com/article/20081210/TUSCALOOSAMAGAZINE02/812090253?Title=Row_TIDE



JAMYCHAL GREEN
MEN'S BASKETBALL

TENNIS (W)

- Taylor Lindsey began her dual-match career in the crimson and white with a bang as she was named Southeastern Conference women's tennis Freshman of the Week for the first week of February.

DIVING (M)

- Aaron Fleshner was named Southeaster Conference diver of the week during the second week of January. It marks the second time this season the junior has earned the league honor and the sixth time in his career.

VOLLEYBALL

- Senior Lindsey Buteyn was named to the Southeastern Conference's Community Service Team. Buteyn showed leadership this year serving as a captain on the court and in the community in numerous projects as part of the SAAC. The SEC Community Service Team, now in its sixth year, honors one athlete from each conference institution who gives back to her community in superior service efforts.

BASKETBALL (M)

- JaMychal Green, a native of Montgomery, was named the Southeastern Conference men's basketball Freshman of the Week for the first week and last week of January. He is the only two-time SEC Freshman of the Week this season.

AWARDS 2008 FOOTBALL AWARDS

COACH NICK SABAN

ASSOCIATED PRESS NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR
WALTER CAMP COACH OF THE YEAR
HOME DEPOT NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR
SPORTING NEWS NATIONAL COACH OF THE YEAR
PAUL "BEAR" BRYANT AWARD FINALIST
LIBERTY MUTUAL COACH OF THE YEAR
EDDIE ROBINSON COACH OF THE YEAR
SEC COACH OF THE YEAR (ASSOCIATED PRESS & SEC COACHES)

RASHAD JOHNSON

FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN (AMERICAN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION)
SECOND-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN (WALTER CAMP, AP, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
UNANIMOUS FIRST-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, COACHES, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
LITTLE ROCK TOUCHDOWN CLUB SEC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
WALTER CAMP AND FWAA NATIONAL DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK (LSU)
PERMANENT 2008 TEAM CAPTAIN
SEC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK (LSU)
JIM THORPE AWARD WATCH LIST
BRONKO NAGURSKI TROPHY WATCH LIST
FIRST-TEAM MIDSEASON ALL-SEC (PHIL STEELE)

JAVIER ARENAS

SECOND-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN PUNT RETURNER (PHIL STEELE)
SECOND-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, COACHES, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
SEC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK (VS. TULANE)
SEC SPECIAL TEAMS PLAYER OF THE WEEK (MISSISSIPPI STATE)
SECOND-TEAM MIDSEASON ALL-SEC (PHIL STEELE)

JOHN PARKER WILSON

JOHNNY UNITAS GOLDEN ARM AWARD FINALIST
DAVEY O'BRIEN AWARD SEMIFINALIST
PERMANENT 2008 TEAM CAPTAIN
LOWE'S SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATE
AT&T ALL-AMERICA PLAYER OF THE WEEK (VS. GEORGIA)
SEC OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE WEEK (VS. GEORGIA)

DONT'A HIGHTOWER

FRESHMAN ALL-SEC (COACHES)
SECOND-TEAM SPORTING NEWS ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM
RIVALS.COM MIDSEASON FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN

MARK INGRAM

FRESHMAN ALL-SEC (COACHES)

ANTOINE CALDWELL

RIMINGTON AWARD FINALIST
FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN (AFCA, ASSOCIATED PRESS, SPORTING NEWS)
UNANIMOUS FIRST-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, COACHES, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
PERMANENT 2008 TEAM CAPTAIN
OUTLAND TROPHY WATCH LIST
SEC OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK (VS. AUBURN)
LOWE'S SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATE

ANDRE SMITH

OUTLAND TROPHY WINNER
ROTARY LOMBARDI AWARD FINALIST
FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN
(AFCA, FWAA, SPORTING NEWS, WALTER CAMP, ESPN.COM AND AP)
UNANIMOUS FIRST-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, COACHES, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
SEC OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK (VS. ARKANSAS)
PHIL STEEL'S MIDSEASON ALL-SEC (FIRST-TEAM)

TERRENCE CODY

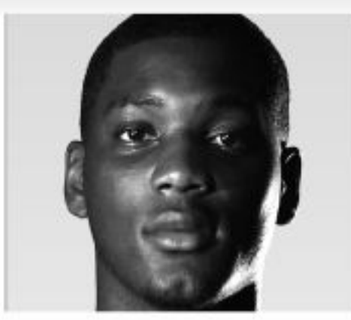
FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN (AFCA, FWAA, SPORTING NEWS, ASSOCIATED PRESS)
SECOND-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN (WALTER CAMP)
UNANIMOUS FIRST-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, COACHES, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
CHUCK BEDNARIK AWARD SEMIFINALIST
SEC DEFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK (VS. CLEMSON)
ESPN.COM MIDSEASON SEC NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR
FIRST-TEAM MIDSEASON ALL-SEC (PHIL STEELE)

JULIO JONES

NATIONAL FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR (COLUMBUS [OHIO] TOUCHDOWN CLUB)
FIRST-TEAM SPORTING NEWS ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM
SEC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR (ASSOCIATED PRESS, SPORTING NEWS)
SECOND-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, COACHES, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
FRESHMAN ALL-SEC (COACHES)
RIVALS.COM MIDSEASON FRESHMAN ALL-AMERICAN
SEC FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK (VS. WESTERN KENTUCKY)
SEC FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK (VS. TENNESSEE)
SEC FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK (VS. LSU)

GLEN COFFEE

FIRST-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
DOAK WALKER AWARD SEMIFINALIST
MAXWELL AWARD WATCH LIST



ROLANDO MCCLAIN

BUTKUS AWARD FINALIST
THIRD-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN (ASSOCIATED PRESS)
FIRST-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, COACHES, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
LOMBARDI AWARD WATCH LIST
PHIL STEEL'S MIDSEASON ALL-SEC (FIRST-TEAM)

BOBBY GREENWOOD

SEC DEFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK (VS. KENTUCKY)

LEIGH TIFFIN

LOU GROZA COLLEGE PLACE-KICKER AWARD SEMIFINALIST
LOU GROZA AWARD AS 'STAR OF THE WEEK' (VS. CLEMSON)
LOU GROZA AWARD AS 'STAR OF THE WEEK' (VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE)

JOHN MICHAEL BOSWELL

FRESHMAN ALL-SEC (COACHES)

MIKE JOHNSON

FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICAN (PRO FOOTBALL WEEKLY)
SECOND-TEAM ALL-SEC (AP, COACHES, SPORTING NEWS, PHIL STEELE)
SEC OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK (CLEMSON)
SEC OFFENSIVE LINEMAN OF THE WEEK (MISSISSIPPI)
THIRD-TEAM MIDSEASON ALL-SEC (PHIL STEELE)

VIVA EL BE

THE CRIMSON TIDE BASEBALL TEAM GETS A

HAVANA, Cuba – Despite the language barriers and vast cultural differences, the game of baseball brought the University of Alabama and Cuba together for a historic three-game exhibition series at legendary Estadio Latinoamericano on Dec, 16-18, 2008 in Havana.The series served as a learning experience for more than just the game of baseball. The Crimson Tide players saw how the Cubans lived off the field and now have a better appreciation for what they have at home.

"I think it did a lot for the team," Alabama head coach Jim Wells said. "I think it affected a lot of these guys in a positive way and they saw a side of life they have never seen or may never see again. I think it touched them. In baseball terms, they saw the joy that those guys played with. There were many things that were positive from this trip, but that one thing really sticks out to me."

The UA players agreed.

"We saw a lot, and it really made me appreciate living in the United States," said Crimson Tide junior Brandon May. "I have been to Venezuela and the Dominican Republic before and every one of those trips has made me appreciate home. The people were really nice and seemed really appreciative that we were here."

"We weren't sure what the people were going to be like," said Tide outfielder Kent Matthes, who hit a two-run homer in the opening-game tie. "We had some mixed reviews going in about what our experience would be like. I'd say the people were real nice. They played our national anthem. They applauded for us when we went on the field. It's a beautiful place with a lot of history.

"I live in Florida so I am used to the Spanish music and the Spanish language and not always being able to understand what people are saying. But it was still different."

In short, it was an eye-opening experience.

"I got a taste of that four or five years ago when I went with Andy Phillips to the Dominican Republic," Wells added. "That was eye-opening to me. So this time it was not totally new to me, because I had seen it before. I think the kids got a lot out of it."

On the field, the Tide ran into a Major League quality team, despite two losses and one tie, the Tide held its own against a quality opponent.

"They are an outstanding team, especially the pitching," Wells said. "We won't see pitching like that in our season, not two on the same team. But that was part of what we wanted, to be tested by the competition.

ISBOL

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY BY BARRY ALLEN

"I thought it was a real good team. There is no way we could play better outside competition. They seemed to have a minimum of three Major League-type players. I guess you would put the others on a Triple-A or Double-A level. The competition was incredible. I thought we played with them. That shows we have a good team because, if not, they would have beaten us up pretty good."

Alabama and Cuba played to a 3-3 tie in the series opener as freshman centerfielder Taylor Dugas threw out the winning run at the play in the bottom of the ninth inning. The next two games Cuba used some timely hitting and a strong bullpen to beat the Tide 6-2 and 7-5.

"It's a different style of play," May said. "They were fundamentally sound and made all the plays, but they all do it in a different way. Their atmosphere is a lot more relaxed. "They seem to be playing for the joy, the fun in it. The atmosphere in the Southeastern Conference is a lot more intense. For them, it's like they are just playing in their backyard. That's just their style. They are still very good players."

Alabama hit only .182 in the three-game wooden bat series, but launched the series only home run in game one when Matthes knotted the score with a two-run blast in the fourth inning. Junior Clay Jones was the Tide's leading hitter, going 3-for-6 (.500) in two games at first base. Matthes was the second-leading hitter with a .286 (2-for-7) average, while sophomore shortstop Josh Rutledge (3-for-12) and junior DH Del Howell (1-for-4) both hit .250 in the series. Sophomore second baseman Ross Wilson added two hits and two RBI in the series.

On the mound, the Cubans used several quality arms, all with upper 90-mile per hour fastball ability. The Cubans posted a 2.67 ERA in the series and added 27 strikeouts in 27 innings en route to a pair of wins and two saves. Alabama was not overshadowed with its 3.46 ERA in three games. Much of the damage against the UA pitchers came in the sixth inning of the final game when Cuba scored six runs to erase a 5-1 deficit.

Alabama used 13 pitchers in the series, including seniors Austin Hyatt and Miers Quigley and freshman Adam Morgan as the starters. Juniors Del Howell, Adam Scott and Scott Hays and sophomore Jimmy Nelson all had two appearances out of the bullpen.

"It's an exhibition, but you're also trying to get everybody in the game, but also put guys in situations that you will put them in during the spring,' Wells said. "We accomplished what we wanted to accomplish and we see where we are right now."

It was a great experience for the Crimson Tide. It offered a chance to bond as a team, see a different side of life not seen in the United States and a chance to improve its baseball skills against a quality opponent.

"I think it was a good thing," Wells concluded. "I think it's something we could look at again in the future."

After all baseball is a universal language.

WITH
JIM WELLS

Q AN

What was your favorite moment from the historic **TRIP TO CUBA** for the three-game exhibition series with the Cuban Collegiate All-Stars?

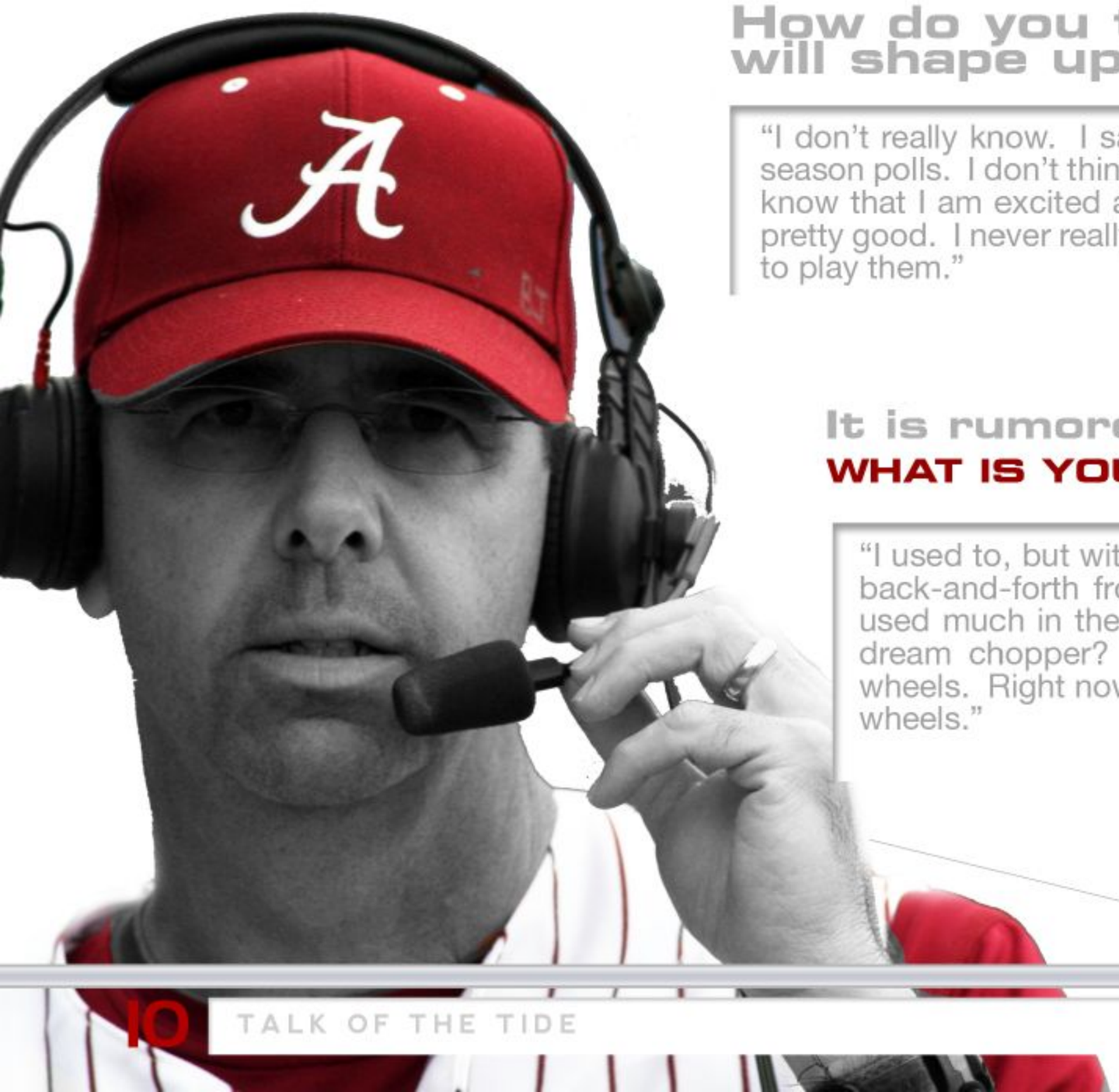
"My favorite moment, I guess was entering the baseball stadium and playing the first game. Having all the players lined up together, our team and the Cuba team, and having the two national anthems played was special. That would be the one moment."

Entering your **15TH SEASON** as the skipper of the Tide, you are the winningest baseball coach in school history. What does that say about you and your program?

"It means I have been here a long time and through all the years, we have had a lot of good players and coaches along the way. It's hard to believe it's been 15 years."

With 19 letter winners and 7 every day starters off last year's club returning, what will be the **KEY TO SUCCESS** for this year's squad?

"We lost only two position players from last year, (catcher) Alex Avila and (first baseman) Matt Bentley, so we are pretty set at most spots. I think how we do really depends on how well we pitch and catch. How we do on the mound and behind the plate are probably the two more important positions entering the season. The outfield and infield are pretty solid."



How do you think the **SEC** will shape up this year?

"I don't really know. I saw where LSU was ranked No. 1 in one of the pre-season polls. I don't think this year is any different from any other year. I just know that I am excited about our team; and I would think that everybody is pretty good. I never really keep up with who all has people back until we have to play them."

It is rumored that you ride motorcycles, **WHAT IS YOUR DREAM "CHOPPER"?**

"I used to, but with three children and two that have to be transported back-and-forth from school, it's like the lawn mower. It doesn't get used much in the winter time. Yeah, I ride up and down the street. A dream chopper? I don't really have one, just something with two wheels. Right now, it's not practical. I usually drive something with four wheels."

JIM WELLS
HEAD BASEBALL COACH

How does KELLY KRETSCHMAN'S success in the Olympics and the success of having so many of your athletes being named All-Americans/All-SEC help in recruiting?

"Having Kelly be a part of two Olympic teams gives us instant credibility on the recruiting circuit. We have seen an increase in the number of prospects interested in us across the country the past few years and I would say that is a direct result of Kelly and our current group of student-athletes."

Your team is INCREDIBLY TALENTED top to bottom. Do you think this is the deepest team you've ever had?

"This could be our deepest team. I thought that about last year's team, too, until we had several injuries in the middle of the season. Our five freshmen are very talented and could start for most Division 1 teams.

"They see the big picture and are going to do great things for us. We have five seniors who could be the best kids we have had at their respective positions. That doesn't happen every year."

The Alabama softball coaching staff was named National Fast Pitch Coaches Association South Region Coaching Staff of the Year this past spring. How does it feel to have your entire coaching staff accomplishments recognized?

"Our success the past 10 years is a direct result of our consistent coaching staff. When I tell people that our program has had only five coaches total (head and assistants) in the 13-year history, they don't believe me. Having Alyson (Habetz) for 11 years and Vann (Stuedeman) for 9 is the reason we are successful year in and year out."

How do you think the SEC will shape up this year?

"The SEC had a great year last year with Arkansas finishing ninth in our league and qualifying for the NCAA tournament -- a first for our league that a team didn't qualify for the SEC tourney but did make the NCAAs. Florida returns almost everyone including a senior pitcher.

"LSU has 10 new kids with several being prominent recruits. Tennessee has several great hitters back while Georgia has almost their entire pitching staff returning. Softball is becoming as balanced as every other sport in the SEC."

What's a realistic goal for your team at NCAA'S this year?

"Since we went to our first Women's College World Series in 2000, our goal every year is to be playing in Oklahoma City on Memorial Day weekend."

PAT MURPHY
HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

OFFENSE SHOULD BE THE KEY FOR THE TIDE BASEBALL SQUAD

The Alabama baseball team returns a veteran squad that includes a 10-man senior class and one the nation's top recruiting classes for the 2009 season. With a good mix of experience and new talent, Alabama head coach Jim Wells has reason to smile as he enters his 15th season in the Crimson Tide dugout.

Alabama returns 12 players that started at least 15 games last season, including eight players with 40 or more starts during last year's 35-28 season that ended with another NCAA Tournament berth.

"The fact that all the position players are back with the exception of (catcher Alex) Avila and (first base Matt) Bentley is a good thing," Wells said. There is a lot of familiarity there."

With the a veteran offensive unit returning for the 2009 season, the question this fall was how good will the Tide be on the mound. Like its offense, Alabama will have a good mix of veterans and newcomers that should produce positive results on the mound.

"The emphasis to me has been getting the pitching in order," Wells said. "The two main things were needed to work on was catching and pitching and we have had improvements. So we are better now than we were then. We still have more to do. In this league you need a multitude of pitching and you need a steady hand behind the plate. I wouldn't say we are there yet, but we are better than we were.

A major building block for this year's team came in mid-December when the Crimson Tide took a six-day trip to Havana, Cuba for a three-game "Friendship Tournament" exhibition series with Cuban All-Star team. While the Tide posted a 0-2-1 record against a roster full of top-notch Cuban players, the series served as a measuring stick for Wells and his staff.

"They were an outstanding team, especially the pitching," Wells said. "We won't see pitching like that in our season, not two on the same team. But that was part of what we wanted to be tested by the competition.

"I thought it was a real good team. There is no way we could play better outside competition. They seemed to have a minimum of three Major League-type players. I guess you would put the others on a Triple-A or Double-A level. The competition was incredible. I thought we played with them. That shows we have a good team, because if not, they would have beaten us up pretty good."

The Crimson Tide returns a solid nucleus of players that include utility-man Brandon May, who has been named to the 2009 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Preseason All-American team. May, who is also a member of the 2009 Brooks Wallace Award Watch List, has started 87 consecutive games at Alabama. He worked this fall at first base, third base, left field and designated hitter.

The Crimson Tide returns second baseman Ross Wilson, shortstop Josh Rutledge and third baseman Jake Smith.

Wilson hit .295 (76 for 258) last season with an Alabama freshman record-tying 15 home runs and 47 RBI. He was also named to the 2008 Conway (S.C.) Regional Team, after swatting three home runs in three NCAA Regional games for the Tide.

Rutledge was 2008 Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-American after hitting a team-best .369 (99-for-268) with 31 RBI and 62 runs scored. He is the first freshman to lead Alabama in hitting since David Magadan posted a freshman school-record .389 average in 1981. Rutledge also led the SEC with 91 hits during the regular season and set the UA freshman record for longest hitting streak.

Smith is a standout defensive third baseman and earned a spot on the 2008 SEC All-Defensive Team as a sophomore after making just 10 errors in 63 games. He also hit .240 with eight home runs and 34 RBI last season, but was one of the Tide's most improved offensive players this fall.

Senior Wes Henderson and junior college transfer Clay Jones will complete for the starting job at first base. Henderson hit .312 (11-for-29) with two home runs and five RBI in 21 games last season, mainly as a defensive specialist at first base. Jones hit a whopping .394 (172-for-436) with 18 home runs and 111 RBI in two years at Shelton State Community College. He was an American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) First-Team All-American in 2007 and led the Bucs to back-to-back National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) World Series appearances in 2007 and 2008.

Replacing Alex Avila behind the plate will fall on the shoulders of seniors Kyle Moore and Vin DiFazio and junior Cody Trotter. Moore played in 22 games last season and made 15 starts. He hit .322 with one home run and eight RBI and showed a steady hand behind the plate this fall. DiFazio has essentially missed the last two seasons with numerous injuries, but was the catching surprise of fall camp with his ability to throw runners out. Trotter is a transfer from Itawamba (Miss.) Community College, where he hit .293 with four home runs and 38 RBI in 78 games.

The outfield has a lot of talent and experience, with seniors Alex Kubal, Kent Matthes, Tyler Odle, Ryan Rhoden, along with freshman Taylor Dugas.

Kubal and Matthes are both solid defenders as well as offensive threats. Kubal hit .329 (48-for-126) in 54 games last season with four home runs and 23 RBI. He was also one of the league's top defenders who can cover a lot of ground in centerfield. Matthes is also one of the league's top outfielders as evidenced by his numerous highlight-reel catches in right field over the course of the last three years. In addition to his team-leading seven outfield assists, Matthes hit .303 with 11 home runs and 52 RBI, one of his most productive offensive seasons at UA.

Odle and Rhoden provide veteran leadership and could also be valuable assets off the bench in key pinch-hitting roles, as well. Odle hit .288 with four home runs and 24 RBI in 48 games last season, while Rhoden hit .276 with one home run and 17 RBI in 32 games.

Dugas stood out among the newcomers with a tremendous fall in the outfield and at the plate. A 2008 Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball High School All-American, Dugas posted a .518 (176-for-340) career batting average with 19 home runs and 159 RBI in four years at Teurlings Catholic high School in Lafayette, La. He also scored 187 runs and added 51 doubles, 51 stolen bases and 17 triples in his prep career.

The Crimson Tide returns nine pitchers off last year's staff, including six with 14 or more appearances in 2008.

Seniors Austin Hyatt (17 G, 5-4, 4.53 ERA) and Miers Quigley (16 G, 5-4, 5.58 ERA) should be staples in the Tide's five-man rotation this season. Other potential starters are senior Casey Kebodeaux (15 G, 2-5, 6.64 ERA), junior Austin Graham (24 G, 6-2, 5.25 ERA, 4 SV), sophomore Jimmy Nelson (18 G, 3-3, 6.26 ERA) and true freshman Adam Morgan, a lefty, who had a stellar fall on the mound.

Nelson was rated as the No. 3 prospect in the Texas Collegiate League this summer and may be more suited for a relief role this season. He made two relief appearances in Cuba, including one pressure-packed outing in game one that stranded the winning run on base in the eighth inning.

In addition, the bullpen should be anchored by junior left-hander David Head, who could see action as both starter and reliever. A transfer from Chattahoochee Valley Community College, Head was 13-6 (.650) with a 2.97 ERA in his two-year career. He has the experience to step in and be a front-line pitcher this season.

Another lefty is junior Del Howell, who was voted the No. 1 prospect in the Texas Collegiate League this summer. Howell compiled a 2-2 record and 2.41 ERA with four saves for the McKinney (Texas) Marshals this summer, where he earned a spot on the TCL All-Star Team. Howell is the Tide's lone two-way player and could see time in the outfield or as a left-hand hitting DH or pinch-hitter.

A pair of Shelton State transfers could also bolster the UA pitching staff. Right-hander Adam Scott and left-hander Jonathan Smart pitched on back-to-back NJCAA World Series teams in 2007 and 2008. Scott was 13-5 (.722) with six saves and a 3.01 ERA in 55 career games for the Bucs.

Scott Hays, a lefty from Odessa (Texas) College, will also compete for a role in the bullpen after a good fall.

The Crimson Tide will also have the services of sophomores Nathan Kilcrease, Austin Evans and redshirt freshman Tyler White, who led the Wilmington (N.C.) Sharks with 15.5 strikeouts per nine innings this summer in the wooden-bat Coastal Plain League.

2009 SOFTBALL PREVIEW

A 58-8 record that translated into a school record .879 winning percentage. A run at the Women's College World Series that was the longest in school history. A school-record four All-Americans. All of that was accomplished in 2008. Even more exciting for Alabama softball fans – head coach Patrick Murphy thinks last season could be just the foundation for the 2009 season.

"I can remember sitting at the hotel after the second loss to Arizona State and the seniors-to-be said they were going to do whatever is necessary to make sure that this year ends on an even better note," Murphy said. "I think that, seeing them in the summer and in the fall and so far this winter, they are on a mission."

At his disposal in 2009 is a roster that is laden with All-American talent. Senior center fielder Brittany Rogers is a three-time All-American and a first-teamer in 2008. Third baseman Kelley Montalvo was also a first-team selection in 2008, as was ASA Player of the Year finalist pitcher/designated hitter Charlotte Morgan. Pitcher Kelsi Dunne capped off her rookie campaign with third-team All-American accolades and senior right fielder Lauren Parker returns after earning All-American honors in 2007.

In addition to the stars that return for Alabama, Murphy notes that the Tide's the depth may be improved in 2009.

"We thought last year's depth was the best it has been here, but this year I feel we have even more quality depth," Murphy explained. "We tell them all the time to force us to put their name into the lineup."

Four of the team's top five hitters return to the lineup after helping Alabama hit for a .324 average, belt 77 home runs and drive in 395 runs last season. Rogers led the Tide with a .452 batting average and 60 stolen bases. The fleet-footed center fielder batted .567 in NCAA tournament action. Morgan led the nation and broke the school and Southeastern Conference record by tallying 79 runs batted in. She batted .417 and led the team with 19 home runs. Montalvo batted .373, smacked 10 home runs and drove in 54 runs. In just 48 games, Parker hit .310, hit nine home runs and recorded 38 RBI.

Add the bats of Ashley Holcombe (.294, 7 HR, 25 RBI), Whitney Larsen (.270, 9 HR, 34 RBI) and Kellie Eubanks (.269, 8 HR, 42 RBI) and Alabama returns one of the most potent lineups in the country.

Offense may bring out the fans, but pitching is the key to this team's hopes of being the last team standing in Oklahoma City. Again for Alabama, just like with the lineup, the Tide returns the brunt of its pitching staff.

Dunne, the 2008 SEC Freshman of the Year, led Alabama with 213 innings pitched, and returns after a stellar showing in her first World Series. The Port Orange, Fla., native finished with a 26-6 record in her rookie campaign with a 1.44 earned run average and 275 strikeouts, which ranked as the fifth-best single-season total in school history.

"Kelsi (Dunne) came out and we knew right away she was going to be good," Murphy said. "She is just so mentally mature on the mound. Nothing rattled her and she was able to have that poker face in every situation. What was the best thing about her is as the season went along she just kept getting better."

On top of getting the job done at the plate, Morgan was also a key contributor for the Tide in the circle. The Moreno Valley, Calif., native tossed 104 innings and posted an 18-2 record while fanning 69 with a 1.27 ERA. Redshirt freshman Amanda Locke will also be looked upon to add to the Alabama pitching staff. The Mesquite, Texas, native pitched every inning for the Tide this fall and finished with a perfect 6-0 mark with four shutouts.

"With Charlotte and Amanda added into the mix you have two righties and a lefty that is the exact opposite of the two righties, which is exactly what you hope for," Murphy said. "I think Charlotte is the best two-way player in the country. I know both her and Amanda will get a lot of opportunities. Amanda looked really good this fall. She definitely opened the eyes of the other two pitchers."

With the package of a great offense tied in with a stellar pitching staff, Alabama will test itself week-in and week-out against one of the toughest schedules in the country. The Tide will play in several of the most talent-laden tournaments in the country, playing the likes of Notre Dame, UCLA, Hawaii, Virginia Tech and Michigan, to name a few. Twenty-one teams on Alabama's 2009 schedule qualified for at least a NCAA regional appearance a year ago.

"This could be the most competitive schedule that we have ever had," Murphy said. "We did that because we have the five seniors and have a lot of people that have great experience. I think this is the year you go out and play as many of those great teams as we can."

With the pieces in place and the tough schedule to boot, the 2009 season looks to be one of the most exciting in school history. In a program that has been to 10 straight postseasons and has won three SEC Tournament titles, the anticipation for the spring is mounting.

ROLL CALL

THE FACES OF CRIMSON TIDE STUDENT-ATHLETES

BRITTANY ROGERS

SENIOR – DACULA, GEORGIA

Brittany Rogers was recognized as an All-American for the third time in her career in 2008, and is looking to be the Tide's fourth four-time All-American before she graduates. In 2008, Rogers garnered first-team honors from Louisville Slugger and Easton. Rogers also was selected as a first-team All-SEC and All-Defensive choice and was one of 25 finalists for the ASA/USA Softball Collegiate Player of the Year. Rogers led the team in games played (66), games started (64), at bats (219), hits (88), runs scored (698), total bases (116), and stolen bases (48). The elementary education major was named as a member of the 2008 SEC Softball Community Service Team and serves as the President of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.

BROOKS WEBSTER

JUNIOR – BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Brooks Webster racked up several postseason honors after a stellar junior season. The Baltimore native was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association Honorable Mention All-America Team as well as the AVCA South Regional Team. Webster's play against conference opponents landed her a spot on the All-SEC First Team. In addition, she earned a position on three all-tournament teams and was Most Valuable Player of the Crimson Tide Invitational. Her consistent offensive performance helped her lead the SEC in kills with 4.17 per set.

BILLY MERTZ

SENIOR – SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

Billy Mertz returns to the court after spending last season on the sidelines with a medical redshirt. As a junior in 2007, he was named Second Team All-SEC and ended the season ranked No. 71 nationally. During that time, he posted a team-high 27 singles victories, including 13 consecutive singles matches from October 26, 2007, to March 2, 2008. The senior competed in his first match in several months on September 19, 2008, and went 5-2 in singles play during the 2008 fall season. Despite the injury and lack of playing time, Mertz earned the No. 115 preseason singles ranking heading into spring competition.

MARK RANDALL

JUNIOR – EAST LONDON, SOUTH AFRICA

After redshirting last season to train for the Olympic Games, junior Mark Randall is back with a vengeance this season, reasserting himself as one of the NCAA's top distance swimmers. Going into the championship season, the East London, South African native is ranked in the nation's top-12 in the 500, 1000 and 1650 freestyles and is in the top-25 in the 200 freestyle. He has been ranked as high as No. 1 in the 500 and 1650 freestyles nationally and is currently among the top-5 in the mile. An All-American as a freshman and sophomore, the Exercise Sports Science major is a threat to win titles at the conference and national level this spring.

ELIZABETH HUGHES

JUNIOR – MARYVILLE, TENNESSEE

One of the Southeastern Conference's top divers, junior Elizabeth Hughes posted Alabama's top individual finish at last year's SEC Championships when she took third in the platform event. She also scored off the three-meter board, taking 10th place. The Maryville, Tennessee native has been steadily making her way up the ranks during her Crimson Tide career, finishing seventh off the platform as a freshman. At her best during championship season, Hughes is again among the league's top-10 in the platform and finished fourth out of more than 40 divers in the platform at the talent-filled Tennessee Diving Invitational to start the New Year.

VICTORIA CROY

SENIOR – HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

There's no doubt that Victoria Croy likes to keep busy. The senior rower balances a full course load, a spot on the rowing team's first Varsity boat with two part-time jobs, including working with the Crimson Tide's marketing and promotions department. She also manages to find time to volunteer in the Tuscaloosa community, including visiting local elementary schools and helping the students train for the Presidential Fitness Test. On the water, the Huntsville, Alabama native was part of the Tide squad that earned a silver medal at last year's legendary Head of the Charles Regatta and rowed as part of the first Alabama crew to earn a gold medal, winning the Championship 8+ at the Head of the South as part of the Tide's "A" boat. This season she serves as on the Alabama's tri-captains, helping lead the third year program to bigger and better things.

SAAC UPDATE

STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SAAC COMMITTEE

CALLI JOHNSON

During the month of December, the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) participated in a variety of community service projects. The holiday season is a time to give, and Crimson Tide student-athletes were excited to be a part of several community service projects at an important time of the year for those who are less fortunate.

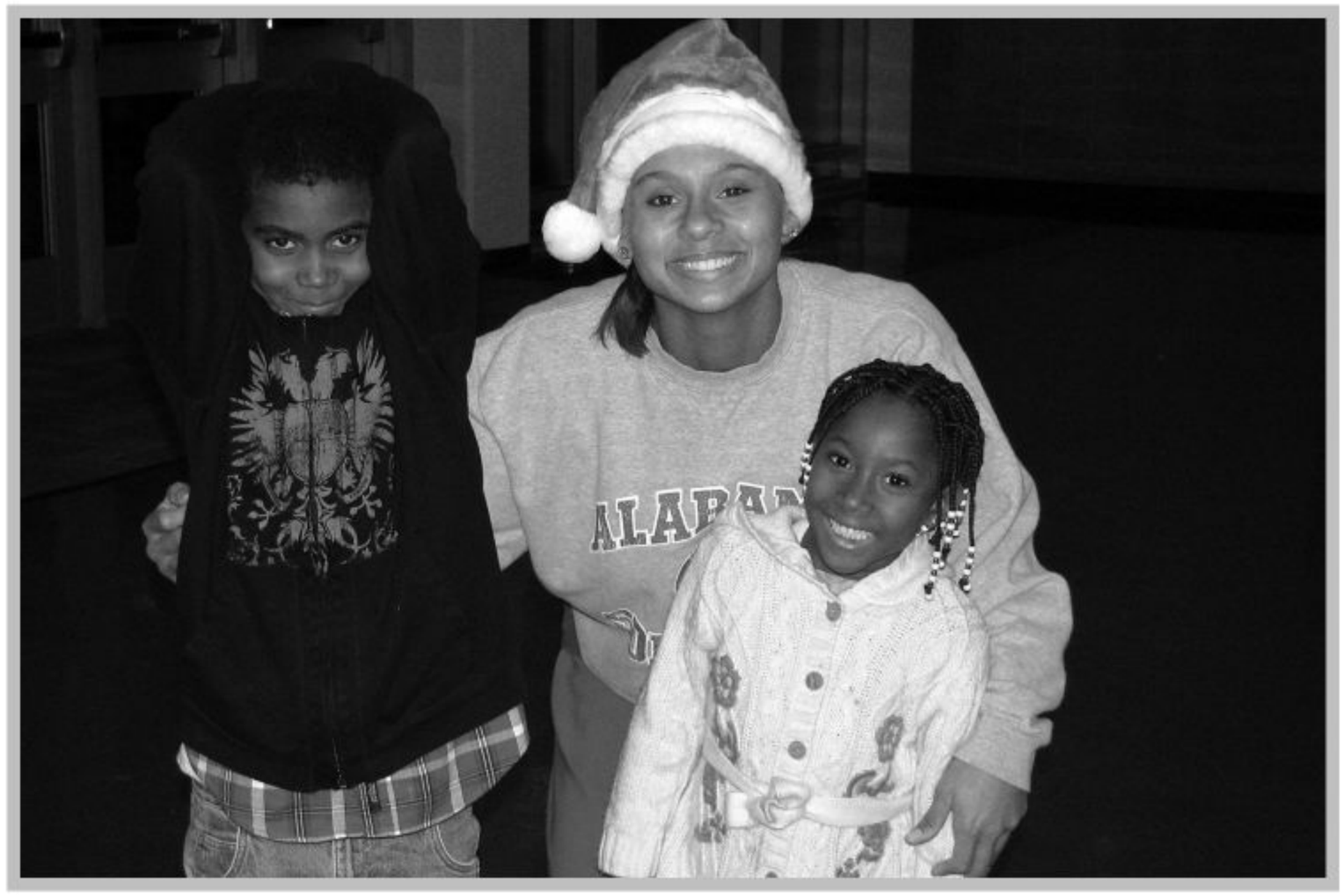
This past month the SAAC gave money to a temporary emergency service called "Christmas for Kids" and was also involved in "Project Angel Tree". The funds raised by the committee for "Christmas for Kids" helped meet the needs of children and their families in the community who currently are struggling to make ends meet. The funds were raised with the intent of helping make possible a holiday season for underprivileged children.

"Project Angel Tree" proved to be not only an opportunity for UA student-athletes to help provide a memorable children's holiday for several Tuscaloosa-area kids, but also was especially rewarding for the SAAC members who participated. Group members collected money from the members of several UA athletic teams, used that money to go shopping for gifts for children, and then had a party with the children to pass out their gifts. "Project Angel Tree" not only served as a special gift for those less fortunate, but also reminded SAAC members of what was truly important during the holiday season – giving to those who need it most.

As we start a New Year, the members of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee would like to thank you for your continued support of the student-athletes representing the Crimson Tide, as well as for the opportunities to serve the community at large.

Calli Johnson
2008-2009 SAAC Committee
Volleyball Student-Athlete

COMMUNITY SERVICE



SCHEDULES

FEBRUARY / MARCH

MEN'S BASKETBALL

02.05.09	at Vanderbilt *	Nashville, Tenn	6:00 p.m.
02.08.09	at LSU *	Baton Rouge, La	12:00 p.m.
02.14.09	**SOUTH CAROLINA ***	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA**	**2:00 P.M.**
02.18.09	at Florida *	Gainsville, Fla	6:00 p.m.
02.21.09	**MISSISSIPPI STATE ***	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**2:00 P.M.**
02.25.09	**ARKANSAS***	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**7:00 P.M.**
02.28.09	at Mississippi *	Oxford, Miss	3:00 p.m.
03.03.09	**AUBURN ***	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**8:00 P.M.**
03.08.09	at Tennessee *	Knoxville, Tenn	11:00 a.m.

SEC TOURNAMENT

03.12.08-03.15.08	Tampa, Fla.	TBA

BASEBALL

02.20.09	**vs. Southeast Missouri State**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**6:35 p.m. CT**
02.21.09	**vs. Southeast Missouri State**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**4:05 p.m. CT**
02.22.09	**vs. Southeast Missouri State**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**2:05 p.m. CT**
02.24.09	**vs. Nicholls State**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**6:35 p.m. CT**
02.25.09	**vs. Nicholls State**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**3:05 p.m. CT**
02/27/09	**vs. Illinois-Chicago**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**6:00 p.m. CT**
02.28.09	**vs. Illinois-Chicago (DH)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**1:05 p.m. CT**
	vs. Illinois-Chicago (DH)	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**TBA**
03.01.09	**vs. Illinois-Chicago**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**1:05 p.m. CT**
03.03.09	at Troy	Troy, Ala.	6:00 p.m. CT

WHATABURGER COLLEGE CLASSIC

03.05.09	at Texas A&M Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi, Texas	6:00 p.m. CT
03.06.09	vs. Texas-Pan American	Corpus Christi, Texas	6:00 p.m. CT
03.07.09	vs. Texas A&M Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi, Texas	5:00 p.m. CT
03.10.09	vs. Auburn	Montgomery (Riverwalk Stadium)	6:30 p.m. CT
03.11.09	**vs. Samford**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**6:35 p.m. CT**
03.13.09	**vs. Georgia ***	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**6:35 p.m. CT**
03.14.09	**vs. Georgia ***	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**4:05 p.m. CT**
03.15.09	**vs. Georgia ***	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**2:05 p.m. CT**
03.17.09	**vs. Alabama A&M**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**6:35 p.m. CT**
03.18.09	**vs. Alabama A&M**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**2:05 p.m. CT**
03.20.09	at Mississippi *	Oxford, Miss.	6:30 p.m. CT
03.21.09	at Mississippi *	Oxford, Miss.	1:30 p.m. CT
03.22.09	at Mississippi *	Oxford, Miss.	1:30 p.m. CT
03.24.09	**vs. UAB**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**	**6:35 p.m. CT**
03/25/09	at UAB	Hoover (Regions Park)	6:30 p.m. CT
03/27/09	at Florida *	Gainesville, Fla.	5:30 p.m. CT
03/28/09	at Florida *	Gainesville, Fla.	3:00 p.m. CT
03/29/09	at Florida *	Gainesville, Fla.	12:00 p.m. CT

***denotes SEC game**

BASEBALL TICKET OFFERS

BASEBALL SEASON TICKETS

Alabama Baseball tries to accommodate its diverse fan base by offering several different ticket options and promotions. As they have always been, season tickets are the best way to insure that you can reserve the best seats in the stadium all season long. Your season long support of our Alabama student-athletes is greatly appreciated.

- **Lower Chair - $125**
- **Upper Chair - $100**
- **Faculty/Staff - $72**
- **Grandstand - $75**
- **Grandstand Group - $56.25**
- **Senior - $48**

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS PACK - $21

Cheer on the Crimson Tide "Under the Lights" for every Friday night game. Purchase all seven Friday games for only $21! Seats will be located in the bleachers.

- **Feb. 20 - SE Missouri**
- **Feb. 27 - Illinois-Chicago**
- **Mar. 13 - Georgia**
- **April 3 - Tennessee**
- **April 10 - LSU**
- **April 24 - Kentucky**
- **May 8 - Arkansas**

PICK TEN $30

If you are an Alabama Baseball fan that loves Tide but just has a hectic schedule, this is the perfect ticket package for you. You get to decide which weekend series games you can attend. That's correct; you get to pick any ten weekend games that you would like.

INDIVIDUAL TICKETS

It seems like everything is getting more expensive these days but not Alabama Baseball. Our individual game tickets are still very affordable. Adult tickets are just $5, youth tickets are only $3 and weekday tickets are only $1 for everybody.

GROUP TICKETS

Would your group of 20 or more like to attend a baseball game? The Alabama Baseball Team would love to have you and will give you discounted tickets. This is a great way to treat your employees, club mixers, or a night out with friends. Call 205-348-2612 for more details.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

02.05.09	**FLORIDA ***	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA**	**6:00 P.M.**
02.08.09	**AUBURN ***	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**2:00 P.M.**
02.12.09	at Tennessee *	Knoxville, Tenn	6:00 p.m.
02.15.09	at South Carolina *	Columbia, S.C.	2:00 P.M.
02.19.09	**MISSISSIPPI ***	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**6:00 P.M.**
02.22.09	at Arkansas *	Fayetteville, Ark.	2:00 p.m.
03.01.09	**VS. MISSISSIPPI STATE ***	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**2:00 P.M.**

SEC TOURNAMENT

03.05.08-03.08.08	Lilttle Rock, Ark.	TBA

GYMNASTICS

02.06.09	**DENVER**	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**7:30 P.M. CT**
02.13.09	**LSU**	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**7:30 P.M. CT**
02.20.09	at Florida	Gainsville, Fla.	7:00 p.m. ET
02.27.09	**AUBURN**	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**7:30 P.M. CT**
03.10.09	at Penn State & Ohio State	University Park, Pa.	2:00 p.m. ET
03.06.09	**STANFORD**	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**7:30 P.M. CT**
03.13.09	**OKLAHOMA & UNC**	**TUSCALOOSA, ALA.**	**7:30 P.M. CT**

SOFTBALL

02.07.09	vs. Northwestern State (10:00 am CT) | vs. Memphis (2:00 p.m. CT)	Mobile, Ala.
02.08.09	vs. Jacksonville State (10:00 a.m. CT) | vs. South Alabama (2:00 p.m.) CT	Mobile, Ala.

BAMA BASH

02.13.09	**vs. Notre Dame (5:00 p.m. CT)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**
02.14.09	**vs. Notre Dame (1:00 p.m. CT) | vs. Wisconsin (3:00 p.m. CT)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**
02.15.09	**vs. East Carolina (1:00 p.m. CT)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**

CATHEDRAL CITY CLASSIC

02.19.09	vs. BYU (12:30 p.m. PT) | vs. Oregon (6:00 p.m. PT)	Cathedral City, Calif.
02.20.09	vs. UCLA (10:00 p.m. CT)	Cathedral City, Calif.
02.21.09	vs. Oklahoma (5:30 p.m. CT) | vs. Hawai'i (8:00 p.m. PT)	Cathedral City, Calif.

LEADOFF CLASSIC

02.27.09	vs. Southern Illinois (1:30 p.m. ET) | vs. Virginia Tech 6:30 p.m. ET	Columbus, Ga.
02.28.09	vs. Houston (1:30 p.m. ET) | vs. Michigan (4:00 p.m. ET)	Columbus, Ga.
03.01.09	vs. Massachusetts (10:00 a.m. ET)	Columbus, Ga.
03.04.09	**vs. UAB (6:30 p.m. CT)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**

EASTON SEC/PAC-10/BIG 12 CHALLENGE (MARCH 6-8) — Tuscaloosa, Ala.

03.10.09	**vs. UAB (6:30 p.m. CT)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**
03.12.09	**vs. Mississippi Valley State(6:30 p.m. CT)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**
03.14.09	**vs. Mississippi State (1:00 p.m. CT) | vs. Mississippi State (TBA)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**
03.15.09	**vs. Mississippi State (1:30 p.m. CT)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**
03.18.09	at LSU (5:00 p.m. CT) | at LSU (7:30 p.m. CT)	Baton Rouge, La.
03.21.09	at Mississippi (1:00 p.m. CT) | at Mississippi (3:00 p.m. CT)	Oxford, Miss.
03.22.09	at Mississippi (1:00 p.m. CT)	Oxford, Miss.
03.25.09	**vs. Samford (6:30 p.m. CT)**	**Tuscaloosa, Ala.**
03.28.09	at Florida (2:30 p.m. CT) | at Florida (TBA)	Gainesville, Fla.
03.29.09	at Florida (1:00 p.m. CT)	Gainesville, Fla.

FEBRUARY PROMOTIONS

GYMNASTICS

ALABAMA VS. LSU, FEB. 13 @ 7:30 "PIRATES AND PRINCESSES"

Tuscaloosa Alumni will receive free admission plus one guest to the meet. To receive your tickets, please RSVP by emailing uamarketing@ia.ua.edu.

ALABAMA VS. AUBURN, FEB. 27 @ 7:30 "THE POWER OF PINK" MEET

All fans are encouraged to "Think Pink and Wear Pink" to the meet. All prize winners will be wearing pink for this meet.

BASKETBALL (W)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8 ALABAMA HOSTS AUBURN, 2:00 P.M. (SPONSORED BY COMCAST)

NCAA PACK THE HOUSE CHALLENGE

Help the Crimson Tide break last year's single game attendance record by packing Coleman Coliseum as we take on our in-state rival. Call all of your friends and bring them to Coleman to help cheer the Tide on to victory over Auburn!

CAMPER REUNION

If you attended the 2008 Basketball Camp then make sure you come back for the reunion. 2008 campers will get to shoot free throws prior to tip-off and get FREE ADMISSION to today's game. Just email uamarketing@ia.ua.edu to reserve your free tickets! Don't forget to wear your camp t-shirt!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 ALABAMA HOSTS OLE MISS, 6:00 P.M

JOIN THE CRIMSON TIDE AND THE WBCA FOR PINK ZONE!

In order to promote breast cancer awareness and the Kay Yow Cancer Fund we're encouraging all of our fans to join us in the Pink Zone for great giveaways and awesome on-court action.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1 ALABAMA HOSTS MISSISSIPPI ST. 2:00 P.M.

SENIOR DAY

You won't want to miss your last chance for women's hoops action at the Capstone this season. Join us as we wrap up a legendary season and bid farewell to senior Camilla Blands.